



# THE MUSTANG TIMES

A Publication by and for the students of Raymond Central Elementary School, Valparaiso, Nebraska

Fresh News from 2009-2010

January 2010 Issue

## Welcome to the Mustang Times!

By Jonathon Herroon

Illustration by Alex Schon

Jonathon Herroon, Alex Schon and Hunter Arias started a newspaper class. "The paper of news," as we call it. We meet every Thursday at the library from 3:20-5:30 pm.

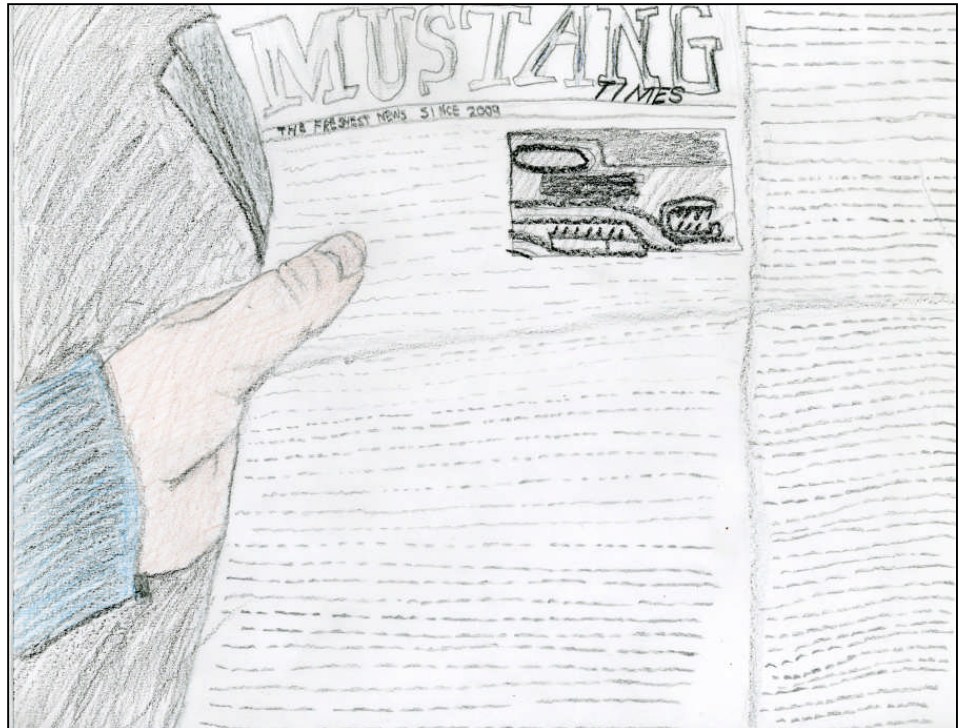
"First we brain-storm ideas for stories," said Alex. "Then we assign different people to different tasks."

"Afterwards we design the layout of the paper for that issue," said Hunter. "After a meeting we go home and work on articles, we plan a deadline, and we keep on working!"

One newspaper class started in the 2007-2008 year, taught by Ms. Farr. The first issue for that came out in October. Sadly, it was the only issue. UNTIL NOW! Our mentor now is the Library Director, Mrs. Cadwallader, and our class is a PTO class at the library.

We need more students to help us. We have openings in things like jokes, editorials, reporters, art, writers, good typists, and web designers.

If you are interested, e-mail us at [ValMustangTimes@gmail.com](mailto:ValMustangTimes@gmail.com) or contact Alex, Hunter, or Jonathon personally.



Above, left to right, editorial staff at work: Alex, Hunter (front), and Jonathon.

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*The Mustang Times* is published occasionally by Raymond Central Elementary School, Valparaiso, NE. **Editorial Staff:** Hunter Arias (Classroom News, Advertising, Town News, Humor), Jonathon Herroon (Spotlight on People, Opinions, Town News, Humor) Alex Schon (School Events, Sports, Town News, Humor, Art). PTO Advisor, Maria Cadwallader, Valparaiso Public Library Director. E-mail: [ValMustangTimes@gmail.com](mailto:ValMustangTimes@gmail.com).



# Special Events

## Barnes & Noble

### Book Fair

By Hunter Arias

Can you believe it?! We made over \$300 at the Raymond Central Book Fair we hosted at Barnes and Noble in Lincoln!

Only 6 other schools are going to be able to do what we did, so we are one of the lucky 7.

How were we able to earn this wonderful privilege? Our school secretary and principal worked together with Barnes and Noble to set everything up.

All through the store, everything was stirring, like dancing, face painting, caroling, and much, much more. Many different events went on while we shopped.

The Just for Kix dancers were a group of younger kids who had

exceptionally great dance moves. Santa's Singers sang songs like "We wish you a merry Christmas" and "The wassail song."

Tami Pytlik was there to sign and read from her amazing book, *Look what Goldilocks Did*. The Three Boyd Brothers were there to show off their sensational violin playing.

And last but not least, Mr. Ingwersen, the Principal of Ceresco Elementary School, told the most wonderful stories and sang great songs.

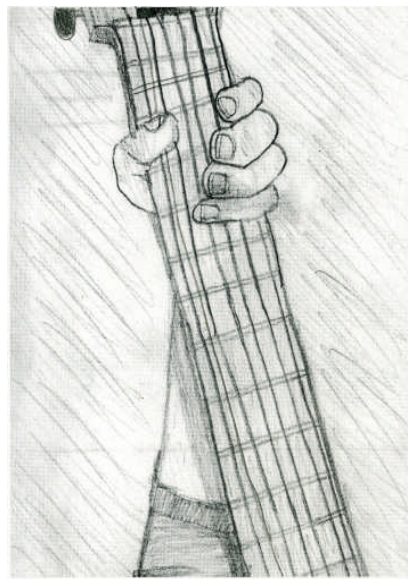
One of the critics said this was one of the best oral readings of all time!

Becky Jamison, the musical arts teacher, said, "There were a lot of great performers, musicians, painters, and an oral reader. It was a really good success!"



Photos above, top to bottom:

1. Santa's Singers;
2. The Three Boyd Brothers;
3. Face Painters;
4. Wrappers Mrs. Peterson and Mrs. Lopez.



### FIND THE 6 DIFFERENCES

By Alex Schon

Answer: 1. Tuning peg. 2. length of top. 3. Thumb nail. 4. Extra fret. 5. Extra string. 6. Sweater length.

# Mustang News

Stories and Art by Alex Schon

## Band Party

On Friday evening Nov. 20, 2009, we had "The best band party ever. It was a blast!" Ian White said. There were raffle prizes, games, and other cool stuff.

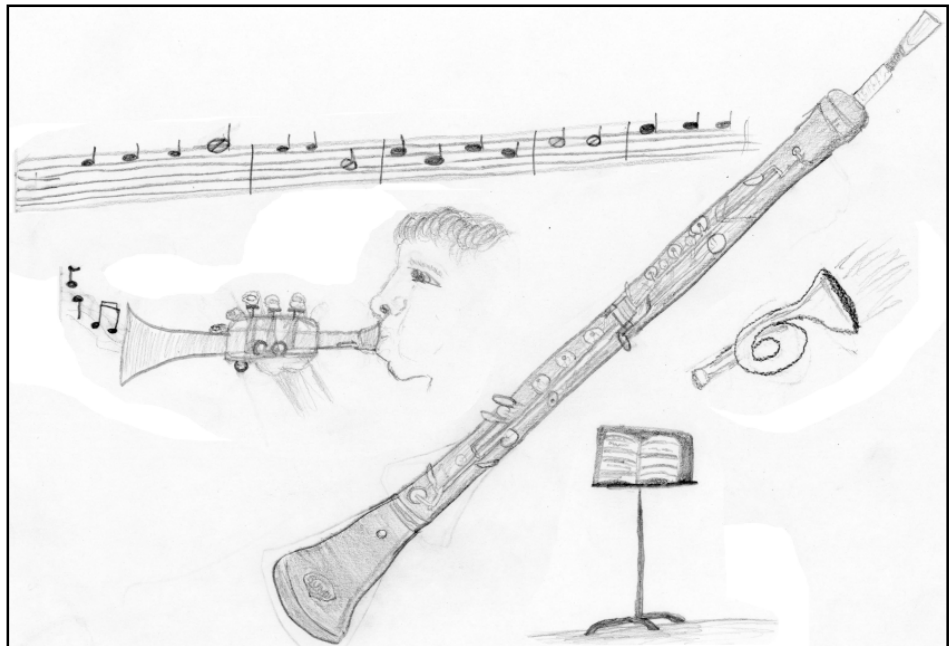
To attend, students had to earn forty-five band bucks. Each band buck is worth twenty minutes of practicing their instrument.

The band party was at Raymond Central Elementary School in Valparaiso, NE. The drinks and snacks were in the lunchroom along with the raffle prizes. The games (volleyball and basketball) were in the gymnasium. The movie, NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM, was in the music room.

Students brought snacks to share, such as popcorn and lots of kinds of cookies and brownies, and frosted grahams. There was also a big variety of sodas.

Students picked numbers to win raffle prizes. They won slinkies, fossil models from Morrill Hall, inflatable guitars and hammers.

I'd say nearly everyone who attended the band party had fun. I thought the band party was fun.



## Winter Break

Winter break was awesome! I couldn't wait to open presents, put up the Christmas tree and have a good time. And we even had snow this year.

I love to open my presents, put up the tree, and have a big supper after Christmas.

Snowball fights are really fun, too. But opening presents is my very favorite thing to do at Christmas.

I'm just glad there wasn't any mistletoe at my house or at my grandma and grandpa's house.

## Be a School News Reporter!

Share your stories about school events in the next issue! They can be about recent past events or upcoming ones.

Contact Alex in person (he's the Editor of this page) and/or e-mail the paper at [ValMustangTimes@gmail.com](mailto:ValMustangTimes@gmail.com).



# Spotlight on People

By Jonathon Herroon

## Mrs. Crouse

### ...Snake Charmer

Mrs. Crouse is the 4<sup>th</sup> grade teacher at Valparaiso elementary. She has a large collection of snakes that started in 2004.

First is Kip, a garter snake. I saw him eat an earthworm. Mrs. Crouse said he eats worms "like kids eat spaghetti. He also will eat "fuzzies," (baby mice), she said. Mrs. Crouse used to have a snake like Kip named Lafawnda, but she bit someone twice, so Mrs. Crouse let her out into her backyard, which is where she found her.

Second is Linus, a lined snake. Linus has a little unnamed doppelganger. They both eat red wigglers or worms. Linus and baby Linus have a very large difference in size.

Barnabus and Bella are both corn snakes and are supposedly boyfriend and girlfriend. Barnabus is the oldest of the 7 snakes; he is about 6. Bella laid eggs but they were never fertilized, so they never hatched.

Both bull snakes will eat frozen mice. I saw Bella eat a mouse; she waited and lunged at it. Barnabus sometimes lunges or just opens his mouth and takes it. Barnabus tried to escape but didn't get too far.

Volturi is a bull snake. Like Barnabus and Bella, he also eats frozen mice. An unnamed bull snake will eat the baby mice, like the garter snake Kip.

From April through November, the snakes are fed once a week. From December through March, they are fed only once a month, because they are hibernating.

During the summer, it takes about 4 to 5 days for a snake to digest food. In the winter, the time for digestion depends on how warm or cold it is. If it is too cold in the terrariums, the snakes' digestive systems shut down.



Above, top to bottom: 1. Mrs. Crouse holding bull snakes; 2. bull snakes; 3. garter snakes; 4. lined snakes.

## Ian White

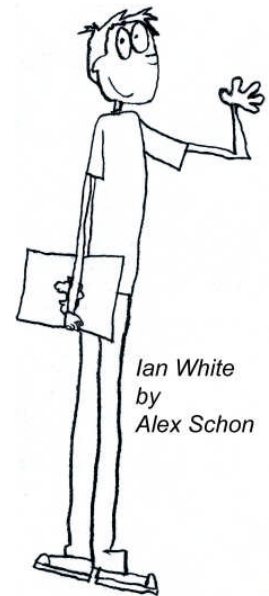
### ...Web Master

Ian White has been a tech wiz since first or second grade and even helps Mr. Rose, the computer teacher. Ian is 10 and in Mrs. Hayward's 5th grade class.

I spoke with Ian White about his technological knowledge. This is what he said:

"None of the stuff I do is hard, it's all pretty easy. At times, it can get complicated. I was about six or seven when I learned all the technology stuff."

Ian has set up a web site. He helps film and post the 4<sup>th</sup> grade



weather report on the school web page! He has done multiple power points on different topics. He also is editing an in-progress, fan-made movie. He does other computer stuff just for fun!

"The hardest thing I've done is re-hook up my Mom and Dad's internet access," Ian said. "The easiest is install a new CD-Rom."

# Town News

## School Bond

### PASSES!!

By Hunter Arias

On November 9, 2009, I interviewed Superintendent Paul Hull in his office at Raymond Central High School about questions district students had concerning the high school bond issue.

We should be starting construction some time during the spring of 2010 and it will be opened in the fall of 2011, said Mr. Hull.

The biggest improvement, he said, will be that all of the kids will be under one roof without the add-on buildings to the west. Some other big improvements are the industrial and agricultural shop areas, another gym for practices and classes, and the commons cafeteria.

I asked, how will the new students from Valparaiso and other schools be affected by the bond? "Well," he said, "they will probably be affected by, again, having one roof over their heads. This applies for everyone."

He said that the reason that they are going to have two gyms is because "Now we have to have two classes go on in the same gym at the same time. We can also do basketball and volleyball at the same time instead of having to use Valparaiso's gym."

Workers will start construction on the parking lot. They need the parking lot to the south be the same level as the school. Once they are done with that, they will start on the new classrooms and the gym area. He said, nine new classrooms will be added on and two of them are replacement classrooms for the current facility.

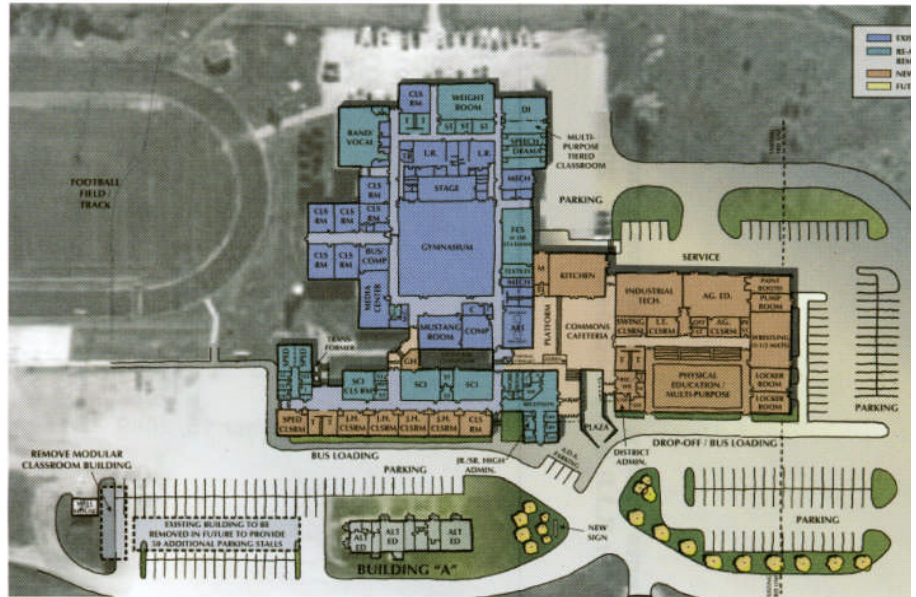


Illustration of the high school layout after construction is complete.

A question a lot of people have asked is, what is the commons cafeteria?

Mr. Hull seemed to know all about it. He said, "The commons cafeteria is just a nice place for the students to go and gather before and after school. It is somewhat of a large area where they can hang out and visit."

At the end of the interview, Mr. Hull said that he hoped the new school attracts new students and wanted to thank all of the people that thought it was time for our school to improve.

## Library Wins Grant, Needs Volunteers

By Hunter Arias

In mid-March 2010, the Valparaiso Public Library will receive over 90 new books for young readers, thanks to the generosity of the LIBRI Foundation and the Valparaiso Women's Club.

One of the grant's requirements is that the library must hold special events to show the books to library patrons.

Please volunteer to help the library plan, publicize, and host these events, which must occur in March and April. Call Maria Cadwallader, 784-0321, for details.

LIBRI awarded the Children's Book Grant for rural libraries to the library this fall. The Women's Club provided \$350 as the basis of the grant, and LIBRI provided over \$1000 in matching funds.

The books come from LIBRI's list, which includes only books that have received reviews and awards for excellence. Many of the books are ones kids and parents who use the library have asked for, and all of them are new releases, published mostly in 2009.

A fairly equal number of books are aimed at readers in grades pre-school-K, 1-2, 3-4, and 5-6. Some are for readers grades 5-10. They cover a wide variety of topics -- fiction, poetry, puzzles, science, math, history, biography, travel, and other areas. Quite a few of them relate to this year's watery Summer Reading theme, "Make a Splash."



## Letters

The purpose of this section is for you, our readers, to have your say. Let us know what you think! Contact Alex, Hunter, or Jonathon, or e-mail us at [ValMustangTimes@gmail.com](mailto:ValMustangTimes@gmail.com).

## Thank You

Thank you to everyone for your thoughts, prayers, and contributions to our family at this challenging time! Words cannot express how grateful we are!

Brian and Jordan Buresh

## Opinions

### Homework

By Jonathon Herroon, Editorial Staff

Homework in backpacks is sometimes spine-snapping and other times is like carrying air. Then teachers wonder why we have bad posture by 5th grade!!!

I admit to sometimes staying up doing homework until 9:30 AT LEAST! And other times, maybe doing math until 3:45 p.m.

I've heard the "It's for practice and being able to make a living in the real world" stuff before. (and no I didn't quote anybody on that, I just summed it up).

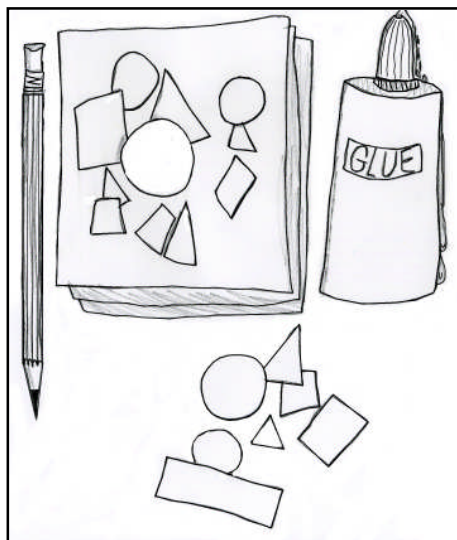
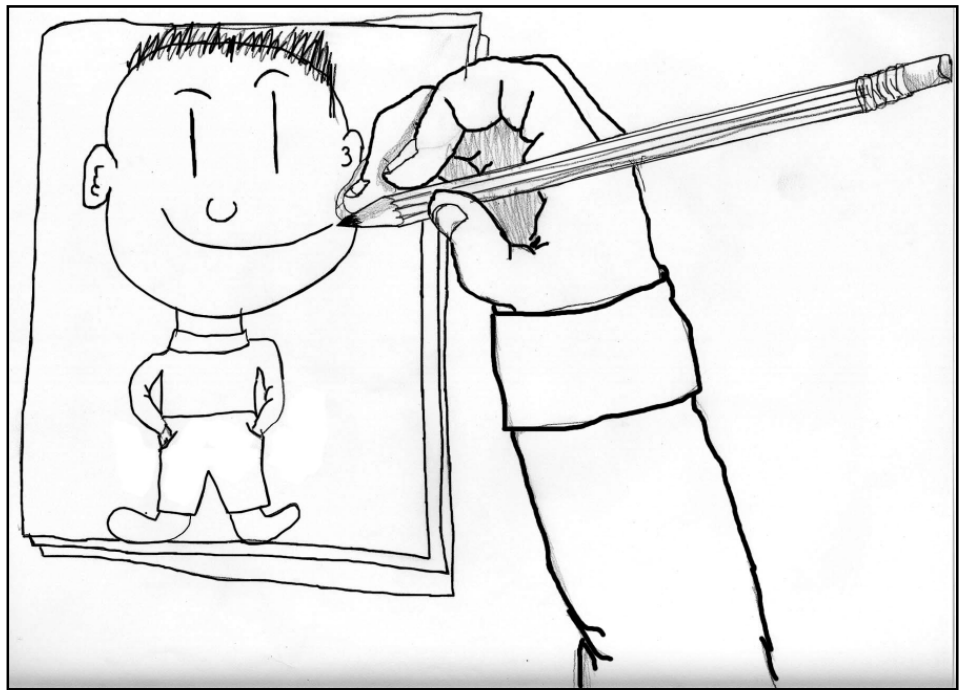
E-mail us what YOU think about homework at [ValMustangTimes@gmail.com](mailto:ValMustangTimes@gmail.com).

### Art Matters

By Alex Schon, Editorial Staff  
Illustrations also by Alex Schon

At Raymond Central we have an Art class. This class teaches us new things about art every week. It is quite fun.

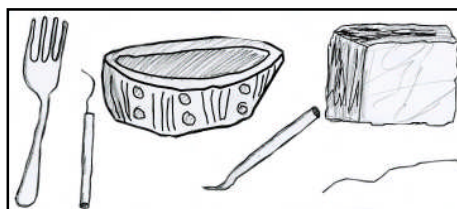
In Art I have made dream catchers, clay projects, and paintings.



We also have a Special Art Class. In it so far this year we have made graffiti art and poinsettia drawings.

Georgia Johnson teaches both classes.

I wish they would have summer art lessons for us. I would like to have art lessons for painting and for drawing with pencils, craypas, crayons, and colored pencils.



## How to Work It Out:

### Valparaiso-Ceresco Schools' Relationship

By Hunter Arias, Editorial Staff

I think we should have a get-together between Valparaiso and Ceresco schools because, after Ceresco got their school redone, there have been some hard feelings.

I am thinking maybe just a social get-together would be nice. It can be at either Valparaiso or Ceresco schools and maybe even at the high school. If we meet at either of the elementary schools, then the different grades can meet in different classrooms.

Getting to know people is also a wonderful opportunity for kids. Holding grudges is not a good thing, so we might as well get over this once and for all.

## Did You Know!!!

Did you know that most car horns honk in the key of F?

You inhale almost  
500,000 of your own  
skin particles every  
day!

You swallow at least 8 spiders a year while you sleep!

Recycling one pop  
bottle can power a TV  
for 3 hours!

One ounce of gold  
can make a wire  
30 miles long!

Fingernails are made from the same substance as a bird's beak!

In 2015, almost one third of the nation will be aged over 50!

**Heard any  
good jokes  
or riddles?**

Let us know about them and we'll print them here.

You can share your cartoons and other funny stuff, as well.

Just contact Jonathon or Alex or e-mail us your material at [ValMustang-Times@gmail.com](mailto:ValMustang-Times@gmail.com).



# ADS from Mustang Supporters

## Advertising Rates

Classified ads, 5 cents per word, minimum \$1.00. To include photo(s), add \$1.00 each. Display ads, \$2.00 per column inch, minimum \$2.00. Deliver copy, photos, or camera-ready display ad material, with payment (cash or check), to The Mustang Times, Main Office, Raymond Central Elementary School, 406 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Valparaiso, NE 68065, phone 784-3301. For more information, contact the Publication Advisor, Maria Cadwallader, at 784-0321 (res.) or 784-6141 (library).

## Classifieds

### BOOKS

**LIBRARY BOOK SALE.** Ongoing during library hours. 3-8 pm T-W, 1-8 pm R, noon-3 Sat. Fifty cents or less per book, ten cents for kids' books.

### HELP WANTED!!!

Val Library needs volunteers to help plan, prepare for, and staff March and April publicity events for LIBRI Grant books. Volunteers will plan event schedule, theme, and refreshments. Design and create publicity posters, banners, decorations. Help clean up library. Set up book display. Greet and serve event guests. Call the library at 784-6141 or Maria at 784-0321 for details. Or stop by the library to sign up.

The Mustang Times needs student reporters, feature writers, photographers, ad sales staff, typists, artists. Web master for on-line BLOG version of paper also wanted. If interested, contact staff editors or PTO advisor directly or through your classroom teacher or school principal.

**YOUR  
ADVERTISEMENT  
COULD  
BE  
HERE!!!**

## Mustang Times Advertising Request

Deliver copy, photos, or camera-ready materials, with payment (cash or check) and this completed request, to The Mustang Times, Main Office, Raymond Central Elementary School, 406 East 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Valparaiso, NE 68065, phone 784-3301. For information, contact the Publication Advisor, Maria Cadwallader, 784-0321 (res) or 784-6141 (library).

### Rates

Classified ad: Five cents per word, minimum \$1.00. To include photo(s), add \$1.00 per photo.

Display ad (camera-ready only): \$2.00 per column inch, minimum \$2.00.

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Total # words: \_\_\_\_\_ Total payment due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please write the ad in the space below, or attach copy:

If Display ad:

Size: One column wide x \_\_\_\_\_ in. tall (\$2.00 per inch)

Two columns wide x \_\_\_\_\_ in. tall (\$4.00 per inch)

Three columns wide x \_\_\_\_\_ in. tall (\$6.00 per inch)

Total payment due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_